

Testimony before the Appropriations Committee
DMHAS Budget HB 6380
March 2, 2011
Susan Maxwell

Good afternoon/evening.

My name is Susan Maxwell and I am a leadership council member at the Independence Center – a program of the Mental Health Association of Connecticut in Waterbury. I am testifying today about Governor Malloy's proposed budget with the exception of the proposed co-pays in the DSS budget that will affect a lot of people with mental illness. I strongly support the proposed budget and its focus on community-based mental health programs.

I have been out of a long-term hospital since I was 24 years old, and now I am 50. I started out in a residential facility when I was 25. During that time, I was in a few programs such as a vocational program being job coached for different jobs. These community-based programs helped me to become a productive member of society. I now live and work independently and have a good life. The tools that I have I have learned in these programs help me live day to day with Schizoaffective Disorder. Working and having a place to go help me with my symptoms and I now feel that I am a role-model for consumers in the Waterbury area. Without these programs, I wouldn't have come as far as I have in my recovery.

Thank you for your time.